

June 15, 2022

The governing body of the City of Seneca met in regular session June 15, 2022 at 7:30 p.m., in the council room, located at 531 Main Street, Seneca, Kansas. Present were Mayor Joe Mitchell and council members Alice Lackey, Steve Bennett, Lukas Koch, Jim Mitchell, and Ray Shinn. Mike Stallbaumer was not present. Also present were Dylan Blevins, Matt Diehl, Tami Haverkamp, and Angel O'Neil.

Ray Shinn made a motion to approve the minutes of the special meeting held May 27, 2022. The motion was seconded by Steve Bennett. All present voted yes. Motion carried.

Jim Mitchell made a motion to approve the minutes of the regular meeting held June 1, 2022. The motion was seconded by Ray Shinn. All present voted yes. Motion carried.

Steve Bennett made a motion to approve Appropriation Ordinance No. 1424. The motion was seconded by Lukas Koch. All present voted yes. Motion carried.

Matt & Julie Lueger submitted the final plat for the Koehler 1 Subdivision and Shawn & Ashley Lueger submitted the final plat for the Koehler 2 Subdivision. Both plats were reviewed and approved by the Planning Commission on June 2, 2022. Ray Shinn made a motion to approve the final plats for both the Koehler 1 and Koehler 2 Subdivisions. The motion was seconded by Steve Bennett. All present voted yes. Motion carried.

A contract for the sale of Lot 2 of Fairway Addition No. 2, to the Meadowlark Extension District #7 was presented to the Council. The contract is for the full asking price of \$45,300 and will close in 30 days if approved. Ray Shinn made a motion to approve the sale of Lot 2 of Fairway Addition No. 2 to the Meadowlark Extension District #7 for the full asking price. The motion was seconded by Lukas Koch. All present voted yes. Motion carried.

Ray Shinn made a motion to approve the appointment of Jim Schmelze to the vacant position on the Planning Commission. The motion was seconded by Alice Lackey. All present voted yes. Motion carried.

Sts. Peter & Paul Church submitted an application for a special event CMB license for their annual church picnic on September 4, 2022. The license would be for September 4, 2022 from 5:00 p.m. to 11:59 p.m. Steve Bennett made a motion to approve issuance of the CMB license for the church picnic. The motion was seconded by Jim Mitchell. All present voted yes. Motion carried.

The council was presented with a street closure request submitted by Sts. Peter & Paul Church to close 5th Street from Pioneer to Elk, and Elk Street from 4th – 5th from 7:00 a.m. on September 3, 2022 to 9:00 a.m. on September 5, 2022 for the annual church picnic. Jim Mitchell made a motion to approve the street closure request by Sts. Peter & Paul Church. The motion was seconded by Ray Shinn. All present voted yes. Motion carried.

The council was presented with a street closure request submitted by the Seneca Fire Department to close Elk Street from 10th – 11th, Pioneer Street from 10th – 11th, and 10th Street from Elk to Pioneer on August 27, 2022 from 7:00 a.m. to 11:00 p.m. for the Stutz 100th Birthday Party. Steve Bennett made a motion to approve the street closure request by the Seneca Fire Department. The motion was seconded by Jim Mitchell. All present voted yes. Motion carried.

After interviews by the personnel committee, the position of Police Chief was offered to Dylan Blevins, with a starting salary of \$52,000/year. Ray Shinn made a motion to approve Dylan Blevins appointment of Police Chief. The motion was seconded by Alice Lackey. All present voted yes. Motion carried. Mayor Joe Mitchell appointed Dylan Blevins as the Seneca Police Chief and he was officially sworn in to assume his responsibilities.

The council was presented with employee health and dental plan options that have been reviewed by staff and the personnel committee over the past couple months. A sheet showing rates for the current plan compared to rates in a dual option plan was presented for review. With benefits becoming a significant factor in recruiting employees in today's changing job market, it was recommended to have the city contribute to dependent premiums by splitting the cost of plans with dependents 25/75. The city's current contribution for employee-only plans would remain the same. Open enrollment begins July 1, with the plan year starting over on August 1st. Steve Bennett made a motion to approve the city splitting the costs of plans with dependents 25/75, with the city's current contribution for employee-only plans remaining the same. The motion was seconded by Jim Mitchell. All present voted yes. Motion carried.

The Council was presented with a letter received from Nemaha Valley Community Hospital indicating interest in obtaining a "Right of First Refusal" for the property adjacent to the hospital if the city were to offer it for sale. An aerial map, showing an 11.76-acre parcel, was available for review. Ray Shinn made a motion to approve the request from Nemaha Valley Community Hospital. There was not a second ????????? (I don't remember how to word this).... After further discussion, the council feels there are others besides NVCH that may have considerable interest in the mentioned property as well. Steve Bennett mentioned that Country Place should be contacted to see if they have any interest in the property. The council agreed that if NVCH is interested in a portion or all of the adjacent property, they should make a purchase offer to the City of Seneca. Tami Haverkamp will communicate with NVCH and Country Place.

Alice Lackey made a motion to adjourn. The motion was seconded by Jim Mitchell. All present voted yes. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 8:06 p.m.

Angel O'Neil
Acting City Clerk